

I am against HR 4026 and the NAB petition to stop XM Instant Traffic & Weather for the following reasons:

1. The issue is not small, local broadcasters against a large company. The major local radio stations in the San Francisco Bay Area, where I live, are not owned by small companies. They are owned and operated by large national corporations. This probably the same as it is in the other markets covered by XM Instant Traffic & Weather service. The NAB petition is one group of corporations trying to end competition with another corporation.

2. Traffic and weather are not private events. No one can claim exclusive distribution rights, as is the case for events such as professional baseball games.

3. It saves oil. I avoid traffic jams and bumper-to-bumper traffic and save gas, along with other XM listeners. Local broadcasters' service provides only fragments of traffic conditions between commercials. Their fragments of information have often led me and others right into traffic messes.

4. It distributes wear and tear of federally funded highways. By discouraging drivers from crowding onto jammed roadways, XM radio's extended coverage allows better use of federal dollars. Local broadcasting's extremely limited coverage does little to improve the situation.

I urge that you oppose HR 4026 and the NAB's petition.